

V. REMARKS

Claims 6-8 and 10-14 are objected to because of informalities. Claim 14 is canceled and the remaining claims are amended as indicated above to obviate the objection. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Masashi et al. (JP 2000-347073) in view of O'Connor (U.S. Patent No. 4,000,688,875). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 is now amended by adding the feature "wherein the locking slotted pin provides electrical connection between the socket housing and the printed board." This is supported by the description in lines 15 to 19 on page 12 of the specification. It is respectfully submitted that neither one of the cited documents, Masashi et al. nor O'Connor, teaches or suggests the technical features recited by amended claim 1. The advantages resulting from these distinguishing technical features are that electrically conductive parts, which are required in conventional devices, such as grounding pins and metallic springs, are not necessary anymore. Therefore, claim 1 has patentability over Masashi et al. even if O'Connor is considered. In other words, it is respectfully submitted that none of the applied art, alone or in combination, teaches or suggest the features of claim 1 as amended. Thus, one of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to combine the features of the applied art because such combination would not result in the claimed invention. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is allowable over the applied art.

Claims 2-13 depend from claim 1 and includes all of the features of claim 1. Thus, the dependent claims are allowable at least for the reason claim 1 is allowable as well as for the features it recites.

Claim 14 is canceled and, as a result, the rejection as applied thereto is now moot.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Further, it is respectfully submitted that newly-added claims 15 to 19,

which are either directly or indirectly dependent on claim 1, are also patentable.

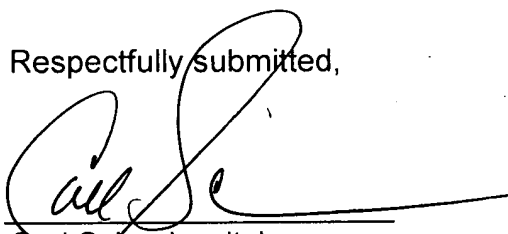
Further, Applicants assert that there are also reasons other than those set forth above why the pending claims are patentable. Applicants hereby reserve the right to submit those other reasons and to argue for the patentability of claims not explicitly addressed herein in future papers.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper or if a Petition for Extension of Time is required for timely acceptance of the same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 18-0013 for any such fees and Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extension of time.

Respectfully submitted,

By:


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Enclosure(s): Amendment Transmittal

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